

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 21, 1997 TIME: 11:30 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: The south side of the North Dakota Winter Show building in Valley City collapsed January 20 under the weight of snow, causing an estimated \$1 million-plus in damage. No one was injured in the incident. The manager reported that an employee had opened a large 14-foot wide by 12-foot high overhead door on the east end when the building collapsed. Air that escaped during the collapse blew out a 20-foot wide by 14-foot high overhead door on the west end of the building, the ticket office's windows and garbage cans, which landed 60 feet from the building.

A N.D. Department of Agriculture survey indicated up to 500,000 pounds of milk had been dumped between January 10 through January 19. Snow-blocked roads prevented access for delivery trucks to dairy farms. North Dakota dairy farmers tend to 64,000 head of dairy cattle.

N.D. National Guard snow removal equipment operators are experiencing cellular phone problems, which are inhibiting communications with support staff at the State Emergency Operations Center.

As roads are cleared, snow removal equipment operators are encountering more traffic, which is posing a safety threat. Law enforcement has been assigned to direct traffic.

In Richland County, snow accumulations covering drainage culverts in the city of Colfax are causing concern for the water drainage system.

The McIntosh County emergency manager received a report that a motorist was stranded for 37 hours during the January 15 blizzard. The man had winter survival gear with him and was not injured.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer, Adjutant General Keith Bjerke, and representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and North Dakota's media are scheduled January 21 for an aerial tour of south central North Dakota. The trip will include stops in Ashley and Venturia, as well as an aerial tour of southern Emmons County. Participants will meet with the McIntosh County emergency manager, local citizens, Wishek- and Ashley-based media and the mayor of Venturia. The National Guard arranged the tour.

Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers assigned from the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army and U.S. Navy conducted a tour January 20 of seven counties to monitor utilization of federal resources.

Two FEMA staff members and a Bureau of Indian Affairs representative were visiting North Dakota's four Indian Reservations on January 21. The three representatives, who began their visits on January 19, are conducting on-site evaluations of conditions at each reservation.

A FEMA-State Agreement that defines scope of work and reimbursement procedures is under development by FEMA and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

The National Guard added two additional missions on January 20 to its snow removal efforts. The National Guard presently has 27 missions underway. Requests are pending for 13 additional missions. New missions included: the assignment of a snow blower and crew from the U.S. Air Force, Grand Forks Base, to Griggs County; and a N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) snow blower to Cass County. Snow removal crews are presently operating in 19 counties with the addition on January 19-20 of missions in Cass, Griggs and Ward Counties. Total support staff and equipment operators on January 20 included: 131 Army Guard, 20 Air Guard and 28 Air Force personnel. Since activation on January 13, after North Dakota received a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration, National Guard personnel have completed five missions.

To expedite snow removal efforts, the N.D. DOT has transferred rotary snow plows from its regions least affected by the disaster to harder hit areas. A Fargo-based snow blower was assigned to assist with county snow removal efforts. A Williston crew and snow blower have been assigned to Barnes County, and a Dickinson crew and snow blower were sent to Foster County.

The North Dakota Civil Air Patrol attempted a flight on January 20 to Fargo to assist the National Guard, but fog prevented the mission from taking place.

The city of New Rockford has issued an Emergency Declaration. Since the storms began, 51 counties, 14 cities and three Indian Reservations have issued declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: A low pressure system from Canada was moving south into North Dakota on January 21, which is anticipated to bring more snow and wind speeds of 20 to 30 miles per hour. A blowing snow advisory has been issued for the evening of January 21. Snow accumulations will vary from two to four inches across the northern portion of the state and one to two inches in the southern half, which could create extensive blowing and drifting snow.

The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director